

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 OMB-01 AID-20 OPR-02 DRC-01

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R 041145Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2680

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJECT: CURRENTS IN NORTHERN ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY: GUERRILLA ACTIVITY SHOWS SIGNS OF INCREASING IN NORTHERN ANGOLA. WHITES THERE SEEM RELATIVELY CALM AND HAVE HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO WORK OUT MODUS VIVENDI WITH EVENTUAL MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT.

2. CONGEN OFFICER DURING VISIT JUNE 3 TO NORTHERN MILITARY ZONE (ZMN) IN CARMONA WAS TOLD THAT WITHIN PAST WEEK THERE HAS BEEN A

MARKED INCREASE IN FNLA TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. THREE ATTACKS WERE NOTED: A) A CIVILIAN CAR ON MAIN ROAD FROM SONGO TO CARMONA WAS STOPPED; WHITE DRIVER TAKEN OUT AND SHOT. CONFIDENTIAL

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BLACK PASSENGER UNHARMED. B) ANOTHER CIVILIAN CAR, BRINGING

PAYROLL TO FAZENDA ON A PREDETERMINED SCHEDULE, WAS STOPPED; ONE WOMAN KILLED, ONE MANY WOUNDED AND US\$5000 STOLEN. C) ARMY RESUPPLY STRUCK AMBUSHED, KILLING 7 (5 OF WHOM BLACK SOLDIERS) AND WOUNDING 1. ARMY FEELS THIS RECENT INCREASE IS IN RESPONSE TO ORDERS FROM FNLA TO STEP UP URBAN AND RURAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES TO KEEP PRESSURE ON WHITE POPULATION.

3. FNLA FORCES INSIDE ANGOLA STILL ESTIMATED IN 2,000-3,000 RANGE. FORCES OUTSIDE ANGOLA INCLUDING THOSE IN TRAINING IN ALGERIA AND ELSEWHERE ARE ESTIMATED AT 5,000. FNLA REPORTEDLY STRIVING FOR 15,000 MAN FORCE AND STEPPING UP RECRUITMENT AGAIN TO ACHIEVE GOAL.

4. AS YET THERE NO INDICATION OF INCREASED INFILTRATION IN ZMN AS RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S RECRUITMENT DRIVE BY FNLA. HOWEVER ARMY EXPECTING IT IN NEXT COUPLE MONTHS AND WILL ATTACK GROUPS WHEN THEY ENTER.

5. OPERATIONAL POLICY NOW IS TO REFRAIN FROM ATTACKING KNOWN GUERRILLA VILLAGES, FIELDS OR CAMPS, UNLESS AN ATTACK ORIGINATES FROM ONE OF THESE. ATTACKS ON MOVING GUERRILLA GROUPS PERMITTED.

6. WHITE POPULATION WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE BUT SEEMS DETERMINED TO STAY UNLESS A "RACIST" BLACK GOVERNMENT FORCES THEM TO LEAVE. THEY FEEL CONFIDENT THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH ANY GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO EMERGE. NEVERTHELESS FEAR OF ANOTHER CONGO STRONG IN ALL MINDS (BLACK AND WHITE). APPARENTLY NO GREAT LEANING TOWARD UDI. WHITES IN CARMONA REGION ARE ESPECIALLY WELL ARMED.

7. DISCREET CONTACT WITH FNLA BEING CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS OF TWO SMALL POLITICAL PARTIES EMERGING IN DISTRICT, BUT ARMY AND GOVERNMENT NOT PARTICIPATING IN THEM. CONTACTS APPARENTLY ONLY TRYING COAX FNLA INTO BECOMING INVOLVED IN LEGITIMATE POLITICAL PROCESS.

8. COMMENT: CARMONA, WHICH MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BE HEART OF DIE-HARD WHITE SUPREMIST FEELING SEEMS TO HAVE ADAPTED QUITE WELL TO CHANGING WINDS. REASONS FOR THIS APPARENTLY IS BELIEF AMONG WHITES THAT BLACKS WILL NOT VOTE FOR REBEL GROUPS BUT WILL CHOOSE ONE OF SEVERAL EMBRYO BLACK PARTIES WHICH ESPOUSE MODER-

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ATION. ACCORDING TO ARMY AND PRIVATE SOURCES IN CARMONA RECENT WAVE OF TERRORISM ALSO HAS NOT UPSET FAZENDIROS TO DEGREE EXPECTED. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS, HOWEVER, AS CONTACTS IN LUANDA (INCLUDING PROMINENT COFFEE GROWER NATIVE OF CARMONA) TELL US MORALE IS "VERY, VERY LOW." INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THREE DAYS AFTER THE FACT THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF ATTACKS IN LUANDA PRESS, REFLECTING MILITARY'S DETERMINATION NOT TO ALLOW "MILITARY INFORMATION" TO BE PUBLISHED CASUALLY.

BRIGGS

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